

Air Force Prime Time, a weekly news magazine for and about airmen stationed overseas, airs Thursday at 8:25 p.m. Central European Time on AFN television. In this week's edition, the Air Force's new logo and public image; new television ads showing the "real" Air Force; making of the Air Force's new ads and more.

## News briefs

### Benefits

For the latest on Air Force benefit information call the 52nd Fighter Wing career assistance advisor, Master Sgt. Deno Mackin, at 452-6071 or stop by building 128.

### Passports

Parents are encouraged to check their children's passports and renew them if the passport is within 60 to 90 days of the expiration. New legislation requiring the signature of both parents may bring about changes to the process of acquiring children's passports as of Feb. 1. Call the base passport office at 452-6813 for details.

### New military phone switch

Military telephone system users may experience a service disruption after 4:30 p.m. Dec. 15 due to the installation of a \$4 million state-of-the-art telephone switch. The switch is expected to double current phone capacity and offer many new features for military customers.

The 52nd Communication Squadron telephone trouble hot line is 119 or commercial at 06565-615717. Customers may also report problems to the base telecommunications center in building 212. For more information, visit the Spangdahlem intranet home page at <http://intranet>.

### AAFES beef products

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service doesn't use beef obtained from European sources in its restaurants, concessions or shoppettes.

"Eating burgers or other beef products at any AAFES restaurant on a base or post is perfectly safe," says Charles Luthi, food and services division chief for AAFES Europe.

AAFES restaurants, including Burger King, Taco Bell, Anthony's Pizza, Robin Hood and Subway, and shoppettes purchase South and North American beef. Other AAFES

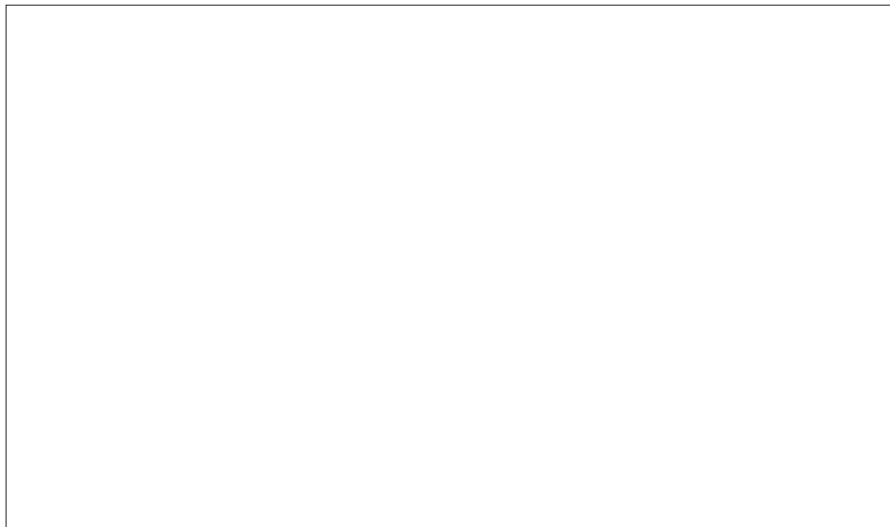
See Briefs, Page 2

# Eifel Times

Vol. 34, Issue 46

Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany

Dec. 8, 2000



Airman 1st Class Michelle Roquid

### Daddy's home

Chief Master Sgt. Raymond Ide, 81st Fighter Squadron, gives his 3-year-old son Brandon a kiss as he sees his family again for the first time in three months. His son Brian, age 8, and his wife Maribel take part in the reunion. About 600 wing members returned from the Air Expeditionary Force-9 deployment Dec. 1 through Thursday to hundreds of family members and friends who greeted them on the flightline. See "Welcome Home AEF-9" on Page 3 for more homecoming photos.

## Pilot bonus nice, but not only factor

### Effect on family first consideration in decision to stay or go

By Senior Airman Lee Watts  
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Determining whether to stay or go is a decision every Air Force member faces at various times during their careers.

For pilots, that decision includes aviation continuation pay as another factor. According to Air Force news reports, ACP is "the Air Force's aggressive approach to retaining pilots." It offers pilots an upfront, partial sum of money with the rest spread out during their next term of service.

"Pilots need to view ACP much like the enlisted force views selective reenlistment bonuses," said Lt. Gen. Donald Peterson, deputy chief of staff for personnel, in a recent Air Force Print News story.

For three pilots at Spangdahlem Air Base, the bonus invoked three different opinions.

"The money is attractive, but it didn't make a difference in my decision," said Capt. Chuck Webb, 23rd Fighter Squadron, who decided to accept the bonus. "I'm in for 'life.'"

The pilots seem to put the bonus in a distant second in relationship to how staying in the military would affect their families.

"Money isn't the big issue," said Lt. Col. Michael Wermuth, 22nd FS, who decided not to take the bonus. He feels the retention problem is due in large part to services and support

See Bonus, Page 2

## Cohen directs IG to examine military absentee balloting

By Jim Garamone  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary William Cohen asked the Defense Department inspector general to look into problems concerning military absentee balloting.

Cohen ordered the inquiry following reports that many absentee ballots from service members weren't counted because they lacked postmarks.

"The secretary's goal and his instruction to the IG is to make sure we have a system that

makes every vote count," said Pentagon spokesman Ken Bacon.

Cohen asked the IG to examine the process and recommend changes to make it "more efficient, more fair, more inclusive and to make it easier," he said.

In his instructions, Cohen asked the IG to examine current procedures for handling military ballots, standard cancellation and postmarking, and how those procedures are actually implemented.

One problem that disqualified military absentee ballots in Florida, for instance, was they arrived without a postmark. Postmarks indicate where and when a piece of mail was sent. DOD postal regulations require all mail be postmarked, including postage-free mail such as absentee ballots. Military Postal Service Agency officials said the IG will obviously look into why so many ballots arrived without postmarks.

"Your review will serve as a basis for any changes that can and should be implemented

by DOD to ensure the voting rights of all U.S. military personnel are respected and that everything possible will be done to make sure every vote counts," Cohen said in his written instructions to the IG.

There's no timetable for the IG to deliver a report.

To find out if an absentee ballot made the postmark deadline for the presidential election, call the voting district's local office of supervisors of elections or its equivalent. (Air Force Print News)

## Bonus

Continued from Page 1

functions taking big hits in manning when the military downsized. Combined with the current high operations tempo, family members now feel they've taken a back seat because of the vacancies left in those areas.

For Capt. Jay Boyd, also with the 22nd FS, the decision still looms ahead.

"My biggest reason for staying would be job satisfaction and stability," he said. "I realize deployment decisions don't

come from the Air Force, they have to get things done, and sometimes that means going somewhere you don't want to go. Thankfully the deployment issue has been identified and the Air Force is beginning to deal with it."

Operations tempo, deployments, family time and other quality-of-life issues are at the forefront of what these pilots use to base their decisions. They all said they were proud to be members of the greatest Air Force in the world, and the main reason they cite for staying in is they like what they do. However, the choice to stay not only impacts the active duty member, but their entire family.

"We will continue to review our overall compensation strategy to best serve our members' needs and meet our retention goals," Peterson said in the AFPN article.

"It seems we newer generation of pilots aren't going to have to go through the hard times like the last generation did," Webb said.

For now, it appears the Air Force hopes with downsizing complete and by addressing quality-of-life issues deciding when it's time to stay or go is becoming a little easier. (For the original article, visit Air Force Print News at [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil).)

## Briefs

Continued from Page 1

concession restaurants, such as Donner Kebap, only use pork, chicken or turkey in their dishes.

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, also known as mad cow disease, has been found in many countries within the European Union. The disease, which attacks and destroys brain tissue, is believed to be transmitted in animals by including meat and bone meal from infected animals in fodder.

Mad cow disease is thought to be transmitted to humans through consumption of meat from infected animals, resulting in the new variant Creutzfeldt Jacob disease. (European Region AAFES Public Affairs)

### Commissaries sell only U.S. beef

Recent media coverage concerning actions taken by European Union members to stem the spread of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, or mad cow disease, in countries outside the United Kingdom, has raised questions and concerns about the issue within the military community. In response, the Defense Commissary Agency Europe assures its customers only U.S. Department of Agriculture-inspected and approved beef from U.S. herds is sold in European commissaries.

The practice of selling only U.S. beef began in 1996. In accordance with a mandate issued in the spring by the U.S. Army Surgeon General, all locally procured fresh deli items and pre-packaged luncheon

meats, sausages and wursts containing European beef were replaced with like items made from pork or were deleted from commissary stock.

DeCA Europe commissaries have posted signs informing shoppers fresh beef is from U.S. sources. Fresh product is shipped from Iowa Beef Packers to Ramstein Central Meat Processing Plant, where it's cut and wrapped in vacuum packaging before being shipped to commissaries throughout Europe.

BSE has never been reported in United States cattle. Additionally, according to the current Centers for Disease Control Traveler's Health Advisory, consumption of milk and milk products is not believed to pose any risk. Visit the Center for Disease Control Web site at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) for more

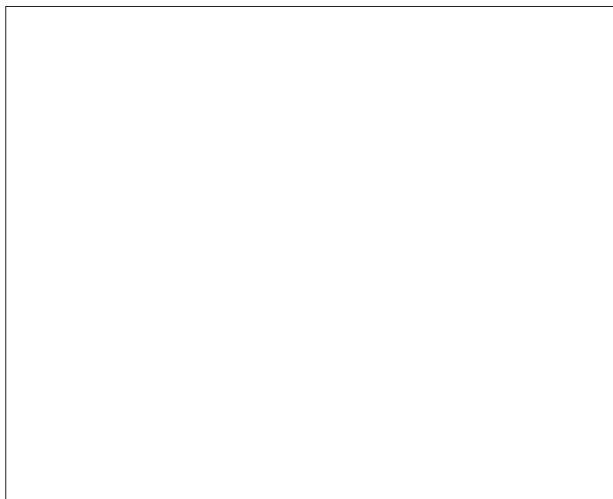
information concerning BSE. (European Region DeCA Public Affairs)

### Reserve opportunities

Palace Front Air Force Reserve briefings take place each Tuesday at 10 a.m. in building 131, Room 207. For details, call Master Sgt. Leslie Russell 480-2326.

### Supply squadron lithographs

The 52nd Supply Squadron has lithographs for sale. They are 27 inches by 20 inches, painted in July 2000, \$15 for unsigned and \$60 for signed. Call Senior Airman Edward Watson at 452-6776/5203/5206 to order.



Staff Sgt. James Rush

### Jaber jam session

From left to right, Alexander Murillo, lead guitarist; Kyle Truelson, drummer; Alan McCracken, rhythm guitarist and singer; and Tim Lakata, bass guitarist and song writer of the band 30mm, perform poolside on Al Jaber Air Base in Kuwait. The band entertained people deployed on Air Expeditionary Force-9. Lakata and McCracken started the band while stationed in Korea a few years ago where they opened for rock bands Warrant and Bad Company. After their assignment in Korea, Lakata and McCracken were both reassigned to Spangdahlem's 81st Fighter Squadron where the band picked up Murillo and Truelson.

## Accidents

**By Tech. Sgt. Franklin McElhane**  
52nd Security Forces Squadron  
Reports and Analysis

Twenty accidents involving Eifel motorists took place this past week, half are the result of motorists traveling too fast for conditions.

The first of five major accidents occurred at about 5 a.m. on Bitburg. An American driver started driving home without first clearing the fog from the vehicle windshield. Because of limited visibility, the driver hit a median in the middle of a road that was under construction. The vehicle's front end was severely damaged.

Another accident happened on Albach Strasse in Bitburg during heavy fog and wet road conditions. An American traveling on Albach Strasse, turned onto Auf Arxt, then stopped and reversed back onto Albach Strasse. A German driving on Albach Strasse hit the American's vehicle. During times of limited visibility, drivers should be extra cautious about backing out onto main roads.

An American suffered a bruised shoulder from the seatbelt that saved him from possibly suffering worse injuries. The accident happened while the driver was

traveling east on L-39. When the driver came around a corner, he suddenly noticed two vehicles stopped in the roadway. With nowhere to turn, the driver tried to stop, but ended up hitting the back of the vehicle in his lane.

The 122nd accident on B-50 this year involved two American drivers. As a driver was rounding a curve by Albachmuhle, he lost control of the vehicle, crossing into oncoming traffic. The driver of another vehicle unsuccessfully swerved to avoid a collision. The two vehicles collided, pinning the first vehicle between the guardrail and the second vehicle. The "jaws-of-life" were used to remove the driver of one of the vehicles, who was airlifted in critical condition to the Bruder Krankenhaus in Trier. The other driver and passengers were transported to the Bitburg Krankenhaus.

There were 15 minor accidents totaling \$10,750 in damages.

Wet roads and excessive speed are the basic ingredients for serious vehicle accidents. Slow down, drive defensively and enjoy a safe holiday season.

## Winter holiday events

■The play, "A Christmas Carol," takes place at 7 p.m. today, Saturday, Dec. 15 and 16, and at 2 p.m. Dec. 10 in the Spangdahlem community activities center. Tickets available at Information. Tickets and Tours cost \$2 for adults and children 10 or older, \$1 for children 9 or younger, or \$5 for families.

■The "Holiday Harmony" concert takes place at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Bitburg High School cafeteria.

■The Catholic Women Of the Chapel hold a cookie and gift exchange at 6:15 p.m. Wednesday at the Bitburg chapel annex. Bring two dozen cookies along with the recipe and a wrapped gift valued between \$5-\$10.

■The 52nd Supply Squadron has arranged with Santa to provide early Christmas gift delivery 5-9 p.m. Dec. 18. Call 06571-951588, 452-6769 or 452-6162 by Dec. 15 to make arrangements.

■A trip to the Rothenburg Christmas Festival takes place Dec. 16. Call Christine Coatney at 06565-942202 or Shawn Hamilton at 06575-959135.

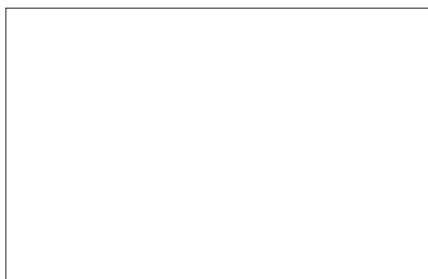
■Donations of baked goods wrapped in individual servings are needed for the Officer's and Civilian's Spouses Club dorm basket project. The program provides dorm residents with homemade goodies for the holidays. Donations are accepted at the Spang Club or the Bitburg chapel from 7-9 p.m. Dec. 19.

■The skills development center awards gift certificates for the most creative ornaments in adult and youth categories. Call 452-6841 for details.

■"Santa's Mailbag" is a holiday program where children around the world can receive a letter from Santa post marked North Pole, Alaska. Visit [www.eielson.af.mil/NEWS/](http://www.eielson.af.mil/NEWS/) for details.

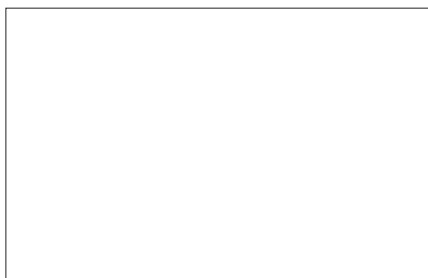
■The American Red Cross quality-of-life items to be distributed to deployed troops during the holiday season are accepted at the entrances of Spangdahlem and Bitburg base exchanges, the BXtra and the Red Cross office.

The ARC also accepts letters of thanks and encouragement addressed to "Any Service Member." Drop off letters at the office in building 2001. Call 453-6740 for more information.



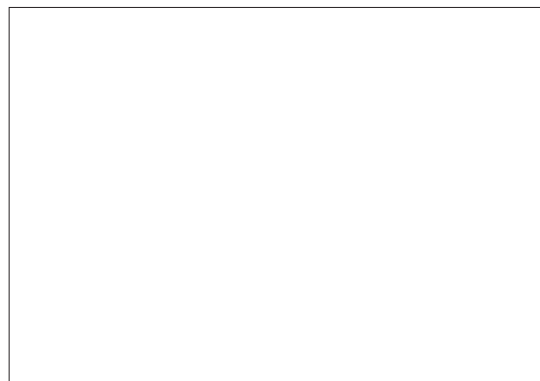
Senior Airman Esperanza Berrios

**Staff Sgt. Alfredo Reyes, 22nd Fighter Squadron, tries to hug his entire family at one time upon his return to Spangdahlem Air Base Wednesday. Reyes was one of about 150 other 22nd FS members returning from Southwest Asia that day.**



Staff Sgt. Tim Cook

## Welcome home AEF-9!



Staff Sgt. Tim Cook

**Left, Staff Sgt. Milorad Vuchovich, 606th ACS, hugs his daughter Christina and wife Stacy upon the squadron's return home Dec. 1. Above, Staff Sgt. Michael Adamoyurka, 606th ACS, gives his child a stuffed toy gift during the squadron homecoming celebration.**

## Dorm council gives airmen voice

### Quality-of-life concerns addressed to wing leadership in meetings

**By Tech. Sgt. Sean Chaplin**  
52nd Civil Engineer Squadron

Unaccompanied airmen needn't feel voiceless in their dormitory environment. The dormitory council offers a forum for residents to gather and discuss issues effecting their homes here in the Eifel.

The council offers airmen the opportunity to address concerns, mention ideas and suggest solutions to improve dormitory living.

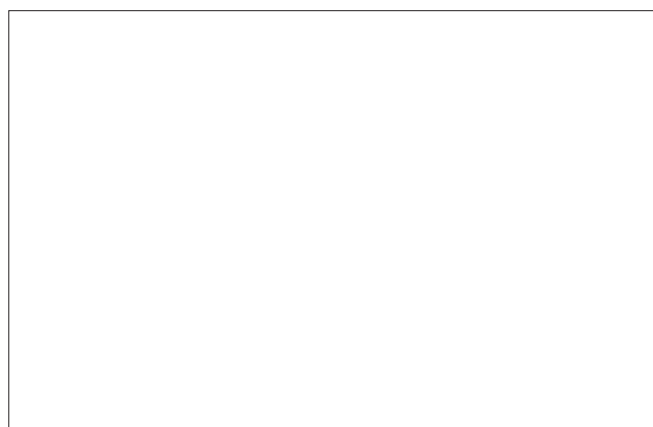
Meetings take place in the dormitory day room of each building and are chaired by the council president, who is also a dormitory resident elected by building residents.

Each question or request is answered and the minutes are posted on each dorm bulletin board emphasizing accountability from the dormitory management team. Issues brought before the council are recorded for action by either the dormitory manager or a unit first sergeant.

Evidence of this is when the building 1 dormitory council requested a recreation room. Within 60 days, residents were enjoying a new home theater system; pool, foosball and ping-pong tables and recliners.

Another suggestion led to the Dormitory of the Quarter program, where base dormitories compete for a cash prize to purchase equipment.

Unit first sergeants are welcome to attend council meetings; however, the meeting is for airmen to voice dormitory issues in a



Airman 1st Class Michelle Roquid

**Tech. Sgt. Edwin Lanuza, 52nd Communications Squadron dormitory manager, Senior Airman Thomas Jones and Airman 1st Class Rudy Mora touch up the dormitory logo as part of dormitory of the quarter competition preparations.**

non-threatening environment. Council members also meet with the 52nd Fighter Wing Dorm Advisory Council, which is co-chaired by Chief Master Sgt. Audrey Thompson, wing command chief master sergeant, and the central dormitory management office.

The opportunity for the dormitory council to meet with the command chief is unique by offering an opportunity to speak

one-on-one with wing leadership. The wing advisory council also affords the command chief the opportunity to inform the council on issues impacting unaccompanied airmen.

The wing council convenes at 1 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month in building 335.

The key to the success of each dorm council is airman involvement. Airmen can rest assured that someone is listening.

# Chapel presents Handel's Messiah Sunday

World-renowned opera stars provide finishing touch to all-volunteer cast

By Senior Airman Jennifer Lindsey  
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Tradition is a common thread running throughout military service and Spangdahlem Air Base isn't without its own.

A popular tradition continuing in the third week of December is the base chapel's presentation of Handel's Messiah. For 39 years, the concert has not only provided free holiday entertainment, but it also helps people prepare their hearts for Christmas.

"I enjoy Handel's Messiah because it's such powerful music," said Professor Michael Rhodes, Messiah conductor. "It sets the whole story, not just the birth, but the prophesy through the birth to Christ's death and resurrection. It's not quiet and reverent, it's bold and holds your attention."

The concert's conductor is another tradition linked to the chapel's Messiah presentation. Rhodes has provided professional direction for the orchestra, choir members and soloists since the chapel's first performance in 1961.

"I'm not overly religious," Rhodes said, "but I do it because I want to give something back for all the good the chapel has done for me over the years."

Rhodes, who has regularly attended base chapel services since moving to Trier in the late 1950s, is an accomplished operatic singer and actor with more than 3,500 worldwide performances and 120 major roles to his credit. He has performed in each U.S. state, including three Carnegie Hall concerts with the New York Philharmonic under the direction of Leopold Stokowsky. In 1951, Rhodes began performing in Europe,

**Handel's Messiah**  
presented by 52nd Fighter Wing  
Chapel Services  
**7:30 p.m. Sunday**  
**in the Bitburg chapel**

including Covent Garden, Berlin.

Before the world of opera, however, Rhodes served in the Royal Air Force and the U.S. Air Force during World War II as a fighter and bomber pilot. Wounds acquired in battle called for the end of Rhodes' military career, but put him on the road to operatic stardom as he chose to use his Government Issue Bill education fund to attend performing art schools, including Julliard in New York.

"I've always felt I owed the Air Force because they gave me training and education," Rhodes said.

Today, at 77, Rhodes still maintains a full, resonating singing voice, commanding the attention of those around him, but now the former star chooses to do so more quietly as conductor and voice instructor.

Semi-retired in Trier, he continues contributing to the music world by providing voice lessons for up-and-coming operatic stars and advises world-renowned singers, including Luciano Pavarotti, Jose Carreras and Placido Domingo.

As conductor, Rhodes said his job isn't only to direct performers, but to also provide direction for the audience.

Senior Airman Jennifer Lindsey

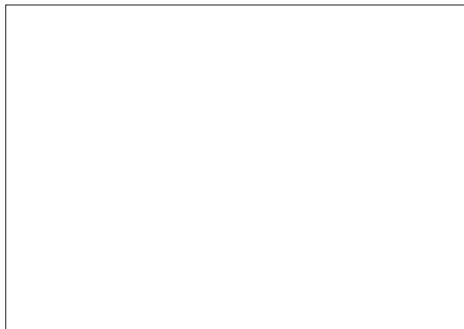
**Professor Michael Rhodes, base chapel Messiah concert conductor and accomplished operatic performer, said he enjoys conducting the chapel's Christmas concert because it's a way for him to continue serving within the military community and the chapel he has attended for about 40 years.**

"As my good friend Leonard Bernstein once explained to me, the conductor shows the audience what they should feel from the music by the expressions on his face. He sets the tone," Rhodes explained.

In addition to the more than 80-person all-volunteer choir, which includes members of the Beda Institute Choir from Trier, this year's performance features the donated talent of four professional operatic soloists: tenor Richard Brunner, bass/baritone Greg Ryerson,

soprano Joanna Zych and mezzo Ingrid Steiner. Opera houses the soloists have performed in include the Vienna State Opera; German Opera, Berlin; Munich State Opera; Darmstadt State Theater and the Zurich Opera House.

People wanting to see this year's Messiah concert should arrive earlier than the 7:30 p.m. showtime to get a seat because traditionally, the concert has played to standing-room only audiences.



Staff Sgt. Tim Cook

## Santa gives reindeer a break

At right, children greet Santa, who bears an amazing resemblance to Capt. Stan Jones, 22nd Fighter Squadron, as he arrives at Spangdahlem Saturday by way of an F-16 piloted by Capt. Shawn Franklin. Above, Eric Wermuth, son of Lt. Col. Mike Wermuth, 22nd FS, shows his excitement as he receives an early Christmas gift from Santa.

## Community Mailbox

### Winter recess

Registration for Eifel school-age programs during winter recess, Dec. 18 through Jan. 1, takes place at the Spangdahlem youth center, building 427, and on Bitburg in building 84. Call 452-7852 or 453-8408 for details.

### Volunteers needed

■To sing American Christmas carols at the Landscheid Christmas market Dec. 17. Call 06575-95875 after 6 p.m. for details.

■Parent representatives for several youth programs in the Eifel community. Call 452-8325.

### New clubs

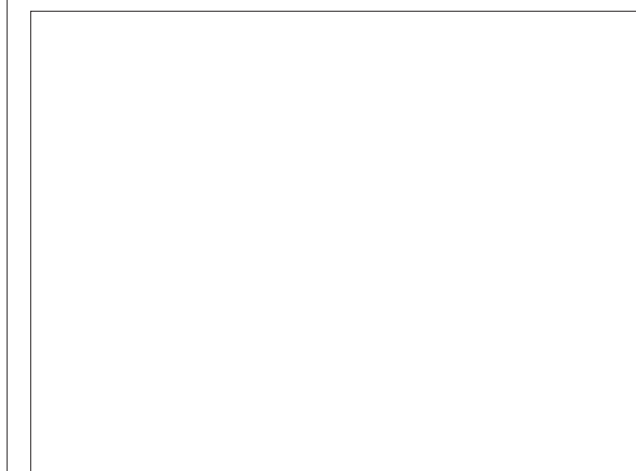
The Spangdahlem library is considering starting chess, coin and stamp clubs. People interested should call 452-6203 for more information.

### Bitburg High School

"Holiday Harmony," a free Christ-mas concert, takes place at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the school cafeteria.

### Law School

Applications for the funded legal education program will be accepted from Jan. 1-March 1. Visit [www.jagus-\(no hyphen\) af.hq.af.mil](http://www.jagus-(no hyphen) af.hq.af.mil) or call DSN 312-224-



Airman 1st Class Kimberlie Drews

### Community pride

**Brig. Gen. Don Hoffman, 52nd Fighter Wing commander, shows off one of the base's new "adopt-a-trash point" program signs near his housing area. Hoffman instituted the program in an effort to improve base appearance. The signs, which have been placed in trash points throughout the housing areas, encourage people to take responsibility for keeping the areas clean and to police the areas for trash. The signs remind base residents of their responsibilities to ensure trash is disposed of in a secure bag, by an adult or child who is able to reach the bin, and to go to the next trash point if the bins are full.**

5941, or 1-800-524-8723.

### 52nd Medical Group news

■Caring for children through divorce takes place 2-4:30 p.m. Dec. 26 in building 161. Call Connie Ketchum at 452-8279 for

details.

■The new mom support group meets Jan. 9 in building 67. Call Cindy Gabehart at 453-3130 for details.

■A stress management course takes

place 3-4:30 p.m. Dec. 19 in building 130. Call 452-9355 for details.

■People interested in attending a couples communication workshop should call Dr. Suzanne Furman at 452-8279.

■The fine tuning fatherhood educational group meets 2-3:30 p.m. each Thursday. Call 453-3130 for location and other details.

■A great expectations class takes place 6-8:30 p.m. Wednesday at the family support center on Bitburg. Call Cindy Gabehart or Terrie Hostetter at 453-7491 for details.

■A mastery of anxiety and stress group meets 2:30-4 p.m. in building 161. Call 452-8279 to register.

### Education Office

A commissioning briefing takes place at 2:30 p.m. Jan. 4.

The education office offers free walk-in counseling from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday for active-duty members and their families. Call the education office at 452-6063 for more information.

### Bitburg Middle School news

■Parents should send a note or call the registrar if their child has been or will be absent for any portion of the day. Call 453-7106 or 06561-617106.

■The school improvement plan needs volunteers for many programs. Call 453-7732 or 453-7731 for details.

■Families PCSing during the school year or extending their DEROS should contact the registration office at 453-7106 or 06561-617106.



## Movies

All movies play at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

### Bitburg Castle

Tonight

#### Lucky Numbers (R)

A TV weatherman plans a scheme to get rich quick — by running a lottery scam.

Saturday

#### A Dog of Flanders (PG, 10 a.m.)

#### Air Bud (G, Noon)

#### Air Bud: Golden Receiver (G, 2 p.m.)

#### 101 Dalmatians (G, 3:45 p.m.)

#### Lucky Numbers (R)

Sunday

#### Bring It On (PG-13)

While the Toros cheerleaders scramble to come up with a new routine, the Clovers cheerleaders have their own problems coming up with enough money to cover their travel expenses to the cheerleader championships.

Closed Monday and Tuesday

Wednesday

#### Hollow Man (R)

Caine, a brilliant scientist, heads a top-secret U.S. government research project to unlock the secret of invisibility. When the formula works successfully on animals, Caine disobeys Pentagon orders and experiments on himself.

Thursday

#### Original Kings of Comedy (R)

### Spangdahlem Skyline

Tonight

#### Legend of Bagger Vance (PG-13)

A disillusioned war veteran, Captain Rannulph, reluctantly agrees to play a game of golf. He finds the game futile until his caddy, Bagger, teaches him the secret of mastering any challenge.

Saturday

#### Legend of Bagger Vance

Sunday

#### Legend of Bagger Vance

Monday

#### The Watcher (R)

FBI agent Campbell has only been in Chicago for a few months when there is a rash of gruesome murders. Before each murder, he receives a photograph of the victim from the killer, daring Campbell to find the person before it's too late.

Tuesday

#### Way of the Gun (R)

Two longtime thieves kidnap a young woman carrying the child of a wealthy Southwestern couple. Kidnapping proves to be much more complicated than expected.

Closed Wednesday and Thursday

Times and movies are subject to change.  
For the most current information,

# Krippana adds to holiday spirit

By Iris Reiff  
52nd Fighter Wing Public affairs

Holiday food, music and shopping help set the tone for Christmas, but for people needing more to get into the holiday spirit visiting Krippana is the perfect outing.

Krippana is located on the German-Belgian border about 45 minutes northwest of Bitburg. The museum features more than 100 different nativity scenes from life sized to miniature. The museum is a popular place, attracting thousands of visitors year-round, but of course, it's especially busy just before Christmas.

Hubert Scheins created Krippana in 1989 when he and his family started assembling and collecting nativity scenes from around the world.

Many of the scenes are of carved wood, but every type of material possible is employed: stone, plastic, glass and many others. Attention to detail is important in the displays.

Some of the depictions are true to the life and times of Christ's birth. Even the scenes, which aren't traditional, always display Mary, Joseph and the Christ child who is always in a manger.

It's interesting to see how each artist portrays the birth. The most popular scenes, however, are those featuring the "holy family" dressed in clothes characteristic of the country of origin. For example, a South-German nativity depicts Mary and Joseph in original Bavarian outfits and surroundings.

The Krippana museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The price of admission is 9 DM for adults and 4.50 DM for children ages 6 to 14. Children under age 6 are admitted for free. Photography is permitted.

To get there, take Autobahn A-60 to Pruem and exit. Drive through town and follow the signs to Losheim and then to Krippana.

Courtesy photo

Many nativity scenes at Kripanna feature the "holy family" in a stable similar to those used in the region in which the scene was created.

## Out and about

■Stop by the Speicher Eifel museum, between 2-6 p.m. Sunday and see the art of spinning, linen knot-work, lace-making, stitch-work, knitting, miniature paint work, portrait paint work, pottery-making and the basket-making. Teddy-bears, ancient nativities, ornaments, books and other ancient items are also on display.

■A Christmas concert takes place by the Dudel-dorf and Spangdahlem music association at 8 p.m. Sunday at the Spangdahlem village hall, located outside the gate.

■For Christmas shop-pers, the larger German stores remain open until 6 p.m. each Saturday now until Christmas. A free Park & Ride service takes place in Trier between 8:45 a.m. and 6:15 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16 and Dec. 23. Follow signs off the Autobahn that state Park & Ride.

■Local Christmas markets take place now through Dec. 23 in Wittlich; Dec. 17 in Landscheid; now through Dec. 20 in Bernkastel-Kues; now through Dec. 23 in Mander-scheid; Saturday and Sunday in Zeltingen-Rachtig; Saturday through Tuesday in Birkenfeld; now through Dec. 17 in Cochem and now through Dec. 22 in Trier.

■A unique Christmas bazaar and holiday festival with a holiday enter-tainment

program takes place outside the gate at the Hof Eulendorf estate in Gransdorf. Children's fairy tales, Christmas corals, art exhibits, a visit by Santa Claus, brass band per-formances, a teddy bear exhibition, home-baked cake and much more can be found there. Call 06567-352 for additional inform-ation about the event.

■Listen to a free Christmas concert at 3 p.m. Sunday at the Altrich St. Andreas Catholic Church. A Christmas bazaar, coffee and cake will be available at the Altrich town hall afterward.

■Concerts take place at 5 p.m. Sunday at the Bergweiler Pfarrkirche Catholic Church and at 5 p.m. Dec. 17 at the Bergweiler St. Paul Cloister church. The concerts are presented by the Bergweiler music association.

■The annual Bitburg Beda art exhibition takes place today through Dec. 20 at the Beda Haus cultural center. The exhibition opens daily, from 3-6 p.m. except for Sundays, when it opens at 2 p.m. and closes at 6 p.m. Entry is free.

■Santa Claus arrives by sled at 3:30 p.m. Saturday in the Speicher market square. Children's surprises, an entertain-ment program, a Christ-mas bazaar, food and beverages will be available.

■Attend a winter volksmarch, Dec. 17 in Kordel.

Marchers meet at 1:30 p.m. at Kreuzfeld. To register, call 06505-8287.

■Visit a flea market, Sunday, at the Trier Messepark hall, located on the Moselauen fairgrounds; inside and outside the Kroeve Weinbrunnen hall; in front of the Konz E Center store; in the center of Schweich; along the Zeltingen Mosel shore; at the Koblenz Messe hall, located on Wallersheimer Kreisel; and inside and outside the Bernastel-Kues Gueter hall.

■Listen to Christmas music from the Middle Ages, performed by the Tourdion Ensemble at 4 p.m. Sunday at the Berkastel-Kues Cusanus Birth House. Entry is 15 DM per person.

■Participate in a 63-hour non-stop-action prog-ram Dec. 15-17 at the Cascade Swimming pool in Bitburg to celebrate the 5th anniversary of the Cascade pool, officials feature a pool festival including aqua aerobics, band performances, swim-ming and diving com-petitions, children's water olympics, rescue demon-strations, a climbing wall, food buffets, an "Under-water Triking" Guinness Book record event, karaoke and more. For additional information, call Cascade pool officials at 06561-96830.

■Listen to Christmas baroque music 5 p.m. Sunday

and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 16 at the Cloister Machern, located near the town of Zeltingen-Rachtig. Sched-uled are classical com-positions by Bach and Mozart. The concert will be performed by the Bernastel Chamber Orchestra and several soloists.

■The Black Gospel Singers "Spread the Gospel or Good News to all Nations," takes place at 8 p.m. Dec. 12 at the former Bitburg Air Base Hall 300. For tickets, call 06727-952333.

■Listen to Swinging Christmas, an Advent concert by the Klausen music association at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 17 at the Klausen pilgrim's church.

■Join the German-American Friendship Club on a trip to the Metz-France Christmas market Dec. 17. Cost is 30 DM per person. The bus leaves at 8:30 a.m. from the Speicher Rathaus and returns at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Gisela Traut at 452-6172.

■A jazz concert by the EuroCore takes place at 8:30 p.m. Dec. 21 at the Trier Tuchfabrik cultural center, located on Weberbach, Wechselstrasse.

■Reserve your ticket now for this year's Christmas concert at 8 p.m. Dec. 16 by the U.S. Air Forces in Europe Band at the Bitburg Edith-Stein School. Entry is 12 DM for

adults or 8 DM for children and students. Members of the Bitburg Cultural Society pay 10 DM to get in. To reserve a ticket, call the Bitburg Cultural Society at 06561-6001-144 or 145 or the Bitburg tourist information office at 06561-9434-0.

Information, Tickets and Tours offers the follow-ing tours in December. Call the Spangdahlem com-munity activity center at 452-6567 or the Bitburg center at 453-7120 for details.

■Nuernburg Christmas market, Saturday, \$39 for adults, \$35 for children ages 3-12. The bus departs Spangdahlem at 6:30 a.m. and Bitburg at 7 a.m.

■Strasbourg Christmas market, Dec. 16, \$30 for adults, \$28 for children ages 3-12. The bus departs Spangdahlem at 7 a.m. and Bitburg at 7:30 a.m.

The outdoor recreation program sponsors the following trip in December. Call 452-7176 for details.

■Underground moun-tain biking Sunday. Trans-portion, cave entry, helmet and light rental are all included in the cost of \$30 for biking.

■Hike the walled village of Rothenburg Dec. 16 and 17. Cost is \$65 per person price.

# New fitness center equipment reduces wait

By Senior Airman Lee Watts  
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

At first glance it looks like a control panel from an F-16, but the new equipment at the Spangdahlem fitness center is simple to understand and easy to use.

"It's a lot more user friendly than the older equipment," said Tech. Sgt. Andre Tolliver, a 52nd Services Squadron fitness center personal trainer.

More than 80 percent of the equipment has already been replaced, with the rest scheduled for replacement within the next six weeks. People who use the Bitburg fitness center can start enjoying new equipment today, since all of the equipment there is already updated.

The 52nd SVS initiated the fitness center renovations to

meet the Air Force's "Golden Eagle" standard, which enables Air Force members to keep their personal fitness program the same no matter where they might be stationed.

To satisfy the standard, there are more exercise machines than before, including four new treadmills to help decrease waiting time. The new equipment doesn't work miracles, though.

"People come in and ask me to take the fat off their hips. That's not the way it works," Tolliver said. "To really help your wellness and fitness, an exercise program of about 30 minutes, three to five times a week is needed."

No matter the fad, to be fit requires proper diet and exercise. That's why beginning Jan. 3 the fitness center at Spangdahlem will have personal trainers available for active-

duty members. The program works like this; after an initial assessment to determine the physical condition and goals, a personalized program is established. The personal trainer checks on members periodically to help them maintain proper form and use of equipment.

"Many people think just adding more weight helps increase fitness, but form is more important than weight," Tolliver said.

As deployed services squadron members return from AEF-9, the Bitburg fitness center will extend its hours to 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, starting Dec. 18 and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

The Spangdahlem fitness center opens 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

## Eifel Sports World

### American football

The Trier Stampers American football team seeks players for the 2001 season. Season includes 10 games in the regional league and begins in June. Practice takes place 7 p.m. each Wednesday and Friday in Trier. Call Master Sgt. Otis Hawes at 06561-941349 or Robert Korf at 06568-7864 for details.

### Football Frenzy

Enjoy the games at Club 2012 from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. each Sunday. Call 453-2012 for details.

### Eifel Lanes bowling

Families get discounts noon to 5 p.m. every Sunday.

Center hours are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday and noon to 9 p.m. Sunday. Call 452-6217 for more information.

### Eifel Mountain golf

The base's new automated ball dispenser and driving range is available for use all hours, day or night. Cost is \$2 for one bucket of balls.

Golf course and pro-shop hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekends and 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. Snack bar hours are 8 a.m. to noon weekends and 7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. weekdays. Call 452-6821 for more information.

### Fitness center news

The Spangdahlem and Bitburg centers close Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 for the holidays. Also, people using fitness center facilities must hand-carry athletic shoes they plan to wear while working out to protect court floors and workout equipment.

### Youth center

A free basketball clinic for children ages 5-8 take place from 1-2:30 p.m. Dec. 19, 21 and 22 in building 427. The clinic opens for children ages 9-12, from 2:30-4 p.m. The event is open to all activity card holders. Registration deadline is Wednesday. Call 452-7545 for more information.

# Strong season forecast for 'Ladies' as return players pack team roster

By Denny Lemmon  
Lady Barons coach

Last year's Lady Barons high school basketball team is the defending league champions from Division II North.

The team claimed an undefeated season and went on to the European finals to take third place. The 2000-2001 Lady Barons has a tough act to follow in the upcoming season, but this year's team has an excellent group of returning players to possibly lead the way to an undefeated season as well.

Kimberly McLearn, senior captain and All-European guard, leads the Barons. She's an experienced and multi-talented player who's expected to inspire the team to play their best.

Brittany Sanders, senior captain, plays center. She has shown remarkable improvements from last year.

Wesley Canada is another senior demonstrating impressive playing skills. She's a three-sport athlete with the strengths of enthusiasm and speed on her side.

The final returning senior is Elizabeth Regalado. This player adds strength to the Barons forward position.

The first of the returning juniors is Constance Maziel. For the past two years, she has maintained double duty as the point guard for the undefeated junior varsity squad while assisting the varsity squad throughout the year. This year Maziel concentrates on varsity success.

Another skilled junior is Crystal Bessler. She's one of the team's best shooters and is also a strong rebounder.

The final returning junior is Ashley Rita, whose strength lies in defense.

The first of the returning

sophomores is Katie Carr who is a strong all-around player. Carr was a star on last year's undefeated junior varsity squad. With Carr's outstanding shooting skills, knowledge of the game and determination, she's expected to be a key varsity player.

Another super sophomore is Jessica Wood. This is player's a speedy guard with exceptional conditioning and defensive skills.

Returning junior varsity players fighting for a spot on the varsity squad this year are Quenessa Bush and Laura Piccolo. Bush is a powerful forward and Piccolo is a guard with a three-point shooting specialty.

Adding to this group of exceptional players is Deneshia Roberson, a junior and power forward transferring from the varsity program in Turkey. Roberson has a good shot and is tough to stop inside.

Freshman Janise Russ is a strong guard who's expected to challenge the more experienced guards for playing time on the varsity.

Other players include: Alisha Bush, Andrea Drake, Elecia Freeland, Chelsea Gavagan, Eileen Hess, Sarah Kempf, Miranda Lavey, Jennifer Redfoot, Erica Stelpflug and Kristi Wade.

Lady Barons also has an outstanding managerial team with two returning varsity managers in Haylie Collins and Kirstin Pope. Newcomer Reshanna Burr assists in the managerial chores.

With so many talented returning players, the team should be mighty competitive this year.

Today and Saturday, Lady Barons play the Patch Panthers. The Panthers took second place in the European finals last season.

## 2000-2001 Bitburg High School Lady Barons game schedule

Today and Saturday  
Heidelberg at home,  
4 p.m. junior varsity,  
7 p.m. varsity

Jan. 12 and 13 at Vilseck

Jan. 19 at Kaiserslautern

Jan. 26 and 27  
at School of Brussels

Jan. 30 at Ramstein

Feb. 3 Heidelberg  
at home,  
11 a.m. junior varsity,  
2 p.m. varsity,

Feb. 9 and 10  
SHAPE at home,  
11 a.m. junior varsity,  
2 p.m. varsity

Feb. 16 and 17  
at AFNORTH

Feb. 22, 23, and 24  
European Basketball  
Championships  
at Mannheim

Home games take place in  
the Bitburg Middle School  
gym.